



# St. Joseph's Newsletter February 2026



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**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

I hope you are all keeping well and you enjoyed a lovely St. Brigid's long weekend. Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! As St. Joseph's steps into spring, we look forward to sharing news from the various activities and events in the school.

**Kind Regards,**

**Úna O' Kelly,**

**School Principal**

## Grandparent's Day



Grandparents day was a great success this year. We were delighted to welcome all our grandparents to St. Joseph's N.S. to celebrate with us as part of Catholic School's week 2026. The theme this year was "Normal Lives, Called to Holiness". We are blessed in St. Joseph's to have a wonderful supportive school community of which our grandparents are a huge part. It was lovely to see all the pupils perform and grandparents visit their classrooms after. Thanks to the Parent's Council for providing the refreshments. More photos to be seen in the blog section on school website.

## Sporting Activities



This term in St. Joseph's we are very busy keeping active in all the classes. 4<sup>th</sup> classes will be starting their first Zumba lesson this term with Suzanna. Great for the wellbeing and keeping fit. They are looking forward to getting started! 3<sup>rd</sup> classes and classes in room 18 and 19 are currently enjoying swimming lessons each week. GAA is continuing for this term also with coach Conor. Cumann na mBunscol will be starting up again in March for U10s and U13s and FAI soccer league with U13s.

We are delighted to have our new soft surface 3 metre running track with long loop, short loop and sprint track. We hope to encourage all our pupils to engage in athletics with this wonderful facility. Thank you to all the wonderful teachers and SNAs who help out with the various sporting activities.

## Parking

I would like to remind parents that **parking in the bus lane and on the double yellow lines is forbidden** at all times. Parking is also **not allowed in the staff car park** as this is for staff only. Please do not park in the blue disabled parking spaces as these are designated disabled spaces and must be kept free for those who really need them. Please **refrain from parking on the road opposite the school and blocking entrances of local residents**. I would ask parents to depart as soon as they have dropped off/collected their child to avoid any congestion near the school. As part of our Green School initiative we **encourage pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school on week days**. This is not only good for the environment but also for the wellbeing. The safety of the school community is always the top priority of St. Joseph's and I ask you for your continued support with this matter. **Any pupil who arrives after 8:50am** in the morning must be brought to the front school door by their parent/minder and **signed in at the school secretary's office**.

## Attendance and Punctuality



Well done to all our pupils who received their 100% attendance certificates at Christmas! We will be giving certificates at the end of June again for 100% attendance and 0-5 days absence. We remind parents that it is extremely important that pupils attend school each day. Our attendance motto in St. Joseph's is **H.E.R.O. (Here Every day Ready On Time)**. It is also important that pupils are on time each morning. Late arrivals are disruptive for the individual pupil and also the class involved too. Our punctuality motto is **“On the line for ten to nine”**. However, if pupils are ill they must not attend school. In cases of vomiting/diarrhoea pupils must not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode as per HSE guidelines. **We remind parents not to take pupils out of school on holidays during term time. If a pupil is absent for 20 consecutive days they must be removed from the school roll as directed by DES circular 33/2015. All absences of 20 days are reported to the education support service of TUSLA.** Please remember to inform teachers through the Aladdin Connect App when your child is absent and give an explanation for each absence.

## Modern Foreign Languages



6<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying their ten weeks of French lessons at the moment with Ms. Walsh. It is lovely to hear them practicing their French with their friends. We encourage parents to speak a little at home with them too and maybe learn some new words with them as they progress through their lessons. We wish them bonne chance with the rest of the term!

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place all over Ireland next Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Here in St. Joseph's teachers will be using the wonderful resources on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) to teach pupils lessons on internet safety. There are wonderful resources for parents to access on this website also as well as online safety webinars advising parents how to use the internet safely with their children. We remind parents that pupils should not have any social media accounts until they are 13 as required by law. **The internet is a great resource when used properly but parental supervision is key to ensuring this is done safely.**

## Friendship Week



The school will celebrate **Friendship week from Feb 9th-13<sup>th</sup>**. We aim to promote positive behaviour and friendships amongst pupils in conjunction with our Bí Cineálta policy and our Cineálta flag. We will have class friendship themed art/poetry competitions, daily friendship reflections on the intercom and different yard games to play with friends at break times. Classes will discuss their child friendly version of the Bí Cineálta policy also.

## St. Brigid's Day



Classes from junior infants-6<sup>th</sup> have been busy engaging in lots of activities about St. Brigid. They enjoyed learning about her life, her work and her special connection to Kildare. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes were delighted to have the chance to make their own St. Brigid crosses with the help of John Tighe from Laragh and get them blessed at mass by Fr. Kolwaini.

## Credit Union Quiz



Best of luck to all our U11s and U13s teams who are taking part in the Credit Union school's quiz this Friday night. We know you have been practising hard and will put in a great performance. Thanks to Mr. Higgins for preparing the teams.

### STEM and Sustainability workshops 3<sup>rd</sup> classes



3<sup>rd</sup> class are currently receiving four weeks of STEM and Sustainability workshops with Ian from the Rediscovery Centre in Dublin. They have already looked at the 17 sustainable development goals and next week move on to water conservation and filtration. No doubt they will have lots of ideas and tips to give our Green School Committee when they are finished.

### Blast Creative School's Initiative



4<sup>th</sup> classes have really enjoyed their four weeks of workshops with Tamzen the creative associate from the BLAST creative school's initiative. They all learned the art of felting and made wonderful creative designs including felt pen warmers, puppets and book marks. Tamzen was very impressed with their creativity and collaboration throughout the workshops.

### Dates for your diary

- February 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Friendship Week
- February 10<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Parent's Council Quiz night @8p.m.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February mid-term
- February 25<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class Service of Light @7:30p.m.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> -World Book Day
- March 7<sup>th</sup> Confirmation @10a.m.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> -Seachtain na Gaeilge
- March 12<sup>th</sup> Lá Glas-Céilí ar an Astro
- March 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day parade
- March 21<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> class First confession 11-12
- March 27<sup>th</sup> School closes at 12p.m. for Easter holidays

Don't forget to download our [Aladdin Connect App](#) if you haven't already done so to keep up to date with news from school.

Don't forget you can also keep up with all our latest news in the blog section of the school website [www.stjosephskilcock.com](http://www.stjosephskilcock.com) and on twitter @sjnskilcock

**Success for all, a happy school-Learning and Growing together**